

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05576 311348Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
SPTA-02 SAA-01 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SES-03 SAS-02 SMS-02
/119 W

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O R 311310Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRAE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7429
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5576

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, CU, EG
SUBJ: BELGRADE NONALIGNED CONFERENCE: PANAMANIAN DELEGATES'S
VIEWS ON CUBA, EGYPT

1. PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA HAMMITT TOLD USUN OFFICER
JULY 30 THAT CUBA "DEFINITELY OVERPLAYED HER HAND" AT THE
BELGRADE CONFERENCE. IN PARTICULAR, HE SAID THAT CASTRO'S
MONCADA SPEECH, WHICH HE SAID WAS "WIDELY READ" BY DELEGATES
HERE, REINFORCED THE CONVICTIONS OF THE "MODERATES" THAT
CUBA HAD TO BE CONTAINED. IN THE END, HAMMITT SAID, CUBA
HAD TO "BEG FOR AGREEMENT" TO A HAVANA VENUE FOR THE 1979
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 05576 311348Z

SUMMIT DURING SOME CRUCIAL EARLY MORNING HOURS ON JULY 30.
YUGOSLAV SENIOR PARTY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR RELATIONS
WITH FOREIGN POWERS MINIC HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO HAMMITT,
FINALLY HAD TO SMOOTH THINGS OVER, GAINING MINISTERIAL
ENDORSEMENT FOR A HAVANA SUMMIT IN RETURN FOR AN END TO CUBAN
BICKERING ON THE GENERAL SECTIONS OF THE
BELGRADE DECLARATION (NAM CHARACTER AND DIRECTION, ETC.).

(COMMENT: THE CUBANS INSIST THAT THERE WAS NEVER ANY SIGNIFICANT
OPPOSITION TO THE HAVANA VENUE.)

2. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, HAMMITT SAID THAT THE EGYPTIANS ARE
NOW TRYING VERY HARD TO BECOME A LEADER OF "MODERATE" FORCES
IN THE NAM AS A MEANS OF MITIGATING THE THREAT OF ISOLATION
IMPOSED ON THEM BY THE NEGATIVE REACTION OF OTHER ARAB STATES
TO THE SADAT INITIATIVE. THIS WAS THE BASIS, HAMMITT SAID,
FOR THE ENERGETIC ANTI-CUBAN ROLE PLAYED BY THE EGYPTIANS AT
BELGRADE. THIS ALSO EXPLAINED, HAMMITT CONTINUED, EGYPT'S
DOCILE ACCEPTANCE OF THE EXTREMELY TOUGH MIDDLE EAST DRAFT
SUCCESSFULLY PUT FORWARD BY THE (TEMPORARILY UNITED) ARABS
AT BELGRADE. NO WOULD-BE LEADER IN THE NAM COULD POSSIBLY
BE SEEN TO BE HARBORING KIND THOUGHTS TOWARDS THE ISRAELIS--
A CHARGE THAT CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST THE
EGYPTIANS HAD THEY OPPOSED THE ARAB CONSENSUS DRAFT.

3. COMMENT: HAMMITT'S COMMENTS ON EGYPT SEEM TO FIT WHAT
WE HAVE SEEN HERE. REGARDING THE CUBANS, HAMMITT'S OWN
APPARENT ANTI-CUBAN FEELINGS MAY HAVE PRODUCED A DEGREE
OF WISHFUL THINKING.

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